

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 26167 161200Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01

(ISO) W

----- 053181

R 161049Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5647

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26167

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, TH, CB,

SUBJECT: THAI-CAMBODIA BORDER CLASH

REF: A) FBIS BK 140148YDEC75

B) FBIS BK 150401YDEC75

C) FBIS BK 160240YDEC75

SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTING ON THE BORDER INCIDENT IS INFLATED,
AS USUAL. THE INCURSION WAS NOT SERIOUS, CASUALTIES WERE
FEW, AND THE TWO SIDES ARE DISCUSSING THE MATTER COOLLY.
THIS INCIDENT WILL DIE DOWN, BUT OTHER SIMILAR ONES WILL
FOLLOW IT BECAUSE OF THE VAGUE BORDER DEMARCATION, AND HUNGRY
KHMER TROOPS SEARCHING FOR FOOD. IN TAM'S RESISTANCE
ACTIVITIES DO NOT APPEAR RELATED TO THIS INCIDENT. END
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 26167 161200Z

SUMMARY.

1. DESPITE THE SOMEWHAT SENSATIONAL PRESS REPORTING ON THE

RECENT INCIDENT ALONG THE THAI-CAMBODIA BORDER, THERE IS, AS USUAL, LESS TO THE STORY THAN INITIALLY MET THE PUBLIC EYE. THE GENESIS OF THE INCIDENT, ACCORDING TO DAO THAI MILITARY SOURCES, WAS THE INCURSION INTO THAILAND OF SOME 24 YOUNG (15-18 YEARS OLD) AND HUNGARY KHMER TROOPERS. THE THAI BORDER PATROL POLICE ARRESTED THEM, THEIR KHMER COLLEAGUES TOOK UNBRAGE AND LOW LEVEL HOSTILITIES ENSUED.

2. ACCORDING TO THE RA AND RTN DIRECTORS OF INTELLIGENCE, WHO SPOKE WITH THE EATT ON DECEMBER 14, CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN "PRACTICALLY NONEXISTENT". THE HELICOPTER CARRYING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL POLICE, SISUK MAHINORATHEP, WHICH THE PRESS REPORTED AS RECEIVING HEAVY GROUND FIRE (SEE REF A), RETURNED TO ITS BASE UTTERLY UNSCATHED ACCORDING TO DAO INFORMATION.

3. THE BASIC PROBLEM IS THAT THE BORDER IN THE TA PHRAYA DISTRICT AREA IS BOTH BADLY MARKED AND DOES NOT FOLLOW CLEARLY DEFINED TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES. (THE FRANCO-SIAMESE TREATY TF 1907 REMAINS APPLICABLE ACCORDING TO MFA.) MORE-OVER, THERE IS SOME BILATERAL DISPUTE AS TO JUST WHERE THE BORDER LIES, ALTHOUGH THE THAI APPARENTLY HAVE POSSESSION OF MOST OF THE DISPUTED AREA.

4. THE RTG, AND ESPECIALLY THE MFA, ARE PLAYING THIS ONE COOL. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE POLITICAL DEPT, CHAWAN CHAWANIT, TOLD AN EMBOFF DECEMBER 16 THAT THE INCIDENT IS "NOTHING SERIOUS". THE INCIDENT HAS NONETHELESS OCCASIONED CONSIDERABLE NEGOTIATING IN THE BORDER LIAISON OFFICES AT POIPET AND ARANYAPRATHET, AND PHAN WANNAMETHI, UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WENT UP TO POIPET ON SUNDAY TO DISCUSS THE MATER.

5. ACCORDING TO THE BANGKOK ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY, THE NATION OF DECEMBER 16 (REF C), THE KHMER ACCEPTED A THAI CEASEFIRE OFFER AND REFERRED THREE OTHER HAI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 26167 161200Z

PROPOSALS TO HIGHER HEADQUARTERS IN BATTEMBANG. THE THAI PROPOSALS REPORTEDLY INVOLVE: PERMITTING UNARMED THAI TO SEARCH FOR AND RECOVER SEPERAL INJURED OR DEAD BORDER POLICE PATROLMEN AND LOCAL VILLAGERS MISSING SINCE DECEMBER 11; HAVING BOTH SIDES WITHDRAW AT LEAST ONE KILOMETER FROM THEIR PRESENT CONFRONTING POSITIONS; ESTABLISHING A JOINT TEAM TO EXAMINE THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE THAT IS AT THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM; AND ERECTING

BORDER DEMARCATION POSTS AT 100 METER INTERVALS ALONG THE
RESOLVED BORDER TO PREVENT FUTURE (INADVERTANT) INCURSIONS.

6. WE HAVE CONFIRMED WITH DEPUTY DG CHAWAN THE GENERAL
ACCURACY OF THIS NEWSPAPER REPORT, BUT NOT THE DETAILS
OF THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. DAO HAS ALSO HEARD THAT MFA
FAVORS SENDING THE 24 DETAINEES BACK TO CAMBODIA, BUT IT
IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE RTG HAS YET PROPOSED THIS IN POIPET.

7. COMMENT: GIVEN THE VAGUE AND ILL-MARKED BORDER,
THESE INCIDENTS WILL ALMOST SURELY CONINUE TO OCCUR.
THE ESSENTIAL ASPECT IS, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH GOVERN-
MENTS APPEAR INTERESTED IN CONTAINING THEM. BASED ON THE
INFORMATION WE CURRENTLY HAVE, WE DO NOT SEE ANY RELATION
BETWEEN THIS INCIDENT AND IN TAM'S CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE
ACTIVITIES.

8. DAO IS SUBMITTING A DETAILED REPORT BY POUCH.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BORDER INCIDENTS, CASUALTIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO26167
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750436-0985
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751237/aaaabgkp.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI-CAMBODIA BORDER CLASH
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, TH, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006